

Testimony of Art Novotny in OPPOSITION to HB0175

This bill seems to be a solution looking for a problem. Of course, we do not want prohibited persons to access firearms or ammunition. However, if a prohibited person is able to acquire a firearm through whatever illicit and surreptitious means available to them, surely they will be able to get ammunition the same way.

Firearms dealers and the NICS system have already been overwhelmed by the unprecedented demand for firearms in the past year anyway. This would only serve to further burden the NICS system (which I do not believe allows for background checks for anything other than actual firearms purchases anyway).

Amid the current buying frenzy, even finding ammunition is a challenge for both vendors and buyers. Complicating the process would most likely drive some vendors out of business and send customers elsewhere. That would be a tax revenue boon to neighboring states that do not have such requirements.

As competitive shooters, my wife and I purchase and expend several thousands of rounds per year, paying hundreds of dollars in MD sales tax. In the competitive shooting world (even in MD), we are lightweights. If it is too much of a hassle to buy ammunition here, sales will just go somewhere else, taking tax revenue with them.

This bill is not the answer. Please do not proceed with it.

Thank you,
Art Novotny
District 7